

ELF claims fall of Asmara airport

ROME, Jan. 3 (R). — The Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) said today that it had seized control of Asmara airport from defending Ethiopian forces. If confirmed, capture of the airport would be a devastating setback for Ethiopian forces which have been besieged in Asmara, Eritrea's capital, for months. The Ethiopians have been supplied by a massive airlift which began in 1975 when liberation forces stepped up their attacks. Road links to the coast and central Ethiopia have been cut for months. In London, a spokesman for the Ethiopian embassy dismissed the ELF claim as "patent nonsense."

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King Hussein visits Kuwait on way home

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home from Tehran this afternoon at the end of a five-day official visit to Iran, during which he held talks with the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Riza Pahlavi and met with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

On his way home, His Majesty visited Kuwait where he offered his condolences to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the death of the late Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Chief of the Royal Court, the Court Minister and top officials.

He was received at the airport by Crown Prince Hassan, Princes Abdullah and Feisal, Premier Badran and senior officials.

King Hussein said before his departure from Tehran that the current Sadat-Begin talks would not yield any results at this stage and that Israel must come up with more realistic plans.



SHAWL FOR FIRST LADY — First Lady Rosalynn Carter is seen waving to villagers in a town near New Delhi Tuesday after she received a colourful shawl as a gift. President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter toured the village before departing for Saudi Arabia. (AP wirephoto)

Hussein: Arabs will negotiate if Israel accepts key issues

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein said that current peace efforts will not lead into any positive results unless the Israelis turned more realistic and announced their readiness to withdraw from all occupied lands, he told the Iranian newspaper Kayhan.

King Hussein stated that the majority of Palestinians and Arabs, including Syria, would participate in the peace negotiations if the Israelis agreed to the key Arab conditions, among which total withdrawal tops the list. His Majesty went on to say that any peace settlement will be meaningless without the participation of the Palestinians.

A semblance of autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under Israeli military occupation is rejected, the King added. If Israel insists on this condition it means that peace talks will not succeed, he stated.

Boumedienne in Baghdad

LONDON, Jan. 3 (R). — Algerian President Houari Boumedienne arrived in Baghdad tonight in what appeared to be the latest move by hardline Arab states to concert their opposition to Egypt's peace initiative with Israel.

The Iraq News Agency, reporting that President Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr met the Algerian leader at the airport, gave no reason for his unscheduled visit.

But Iraq has invited other rejectionist states to meet in a summit conference in Baghdad later this month to discuss the implementation of proposals made at an earlier summit in Tripoli last month to block President Anwar Sadat's peace moves.

In Beirut, the Iraqi embassy issued a statement saying that the Baghdad government would resist any pressure aimed at bringing its policies into line with those of other Arab states opposed to Egypt's initiative.

Congress expels Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The Krishnandas Reddy faction in the opposition Congress Party today expelled former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and all other congressmen who have joined her new party.

The Congress of Congresses, organized by Mrs. Gandhi's supporters decided yesterday to sever its links with the faction. It installed Mrs. Gandhi as the president of the faction of West Bengal.

Begin's on-off visit to Paris off again

PARIS, Jan. 3 (R). — President Valery Giscard d'Estaing today ruled out an official visit to France by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin before a general election due here in mid-March.

But Mr. Begin is welcome to Paris in an informal capacity any time he chooses to discuss a specific problem, he added.

The French president, who was speaking to journalists at a New Year's reception, said an official visit by the Israeli Prime Minister would take place in due course, but after the French election.

The on-off visit by Mr. Begin has caused some tension in Franco-Israeli relations since President Giscard d'Estaing co-

nveyed a formal invitation to the Israeli Prime Minister last autumn. The invitation was handed over by former French Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas during a visit to Israel last October.

Two weeks ago, President Giscard d'Estaing renewed his invitation when he dispatched one of his closest advisers, Mr. Jean Francois-Poncet, to see Mr. Begin in London.

Early last year, the French President invited Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, then Prime Minister of Israel, to pay an official visit to France. But it could not take place because of the Israeli elections which brought Mr. Begin to power.

Relations between France and Israel are now moving gradually back to normal after a period of severe strain because of pro-Arab policies here.

French Prime Minister Raymond Barre said recently: "despite some ups and downs, Franco-Israeli relations are based on mutual esteem and solid friendship... I hope that in the coming years the relations between our two countries will be good and that the problems facing Israel and the other countries in the area will be settled peacefully."

Arafat: U.S. has wrecked M.E. peace

LONDON, Jan. 3 (R). — Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, in an interview published in the Guardian today declared the "Palestinian revolution is the most important factor in the Middle East equation" and alleged that the United States had wrecked peace efforts.

In an exclusive interview with David Hirst in Beirut, Mr. Arafat said: "First, it must be understood that we shall not abandon our struggle for peace in the area, but it must be a just peace, not at our expense. What happened, however, is that America unfortunately wrecked the whole thing... it demonstrated its flagrant bias..."

He said that in his proposals Prime Minister Menachem Begin offered the Palestinians less than Southern African Bantustans. "Swaziland has more rights than we would have," he said.

Mr. Arafat added: "So it is not us who are wrecking the chances for peace in the area. It is Begin, it is Carter, Carter is the man responsible. So when he says farewell to the PLO what he really should be saying is farewell to his interests in this area."

Asked whether in practical terms, "farewell" to American interests" meant that the Palestinians were going to start blowing up oilfields, Mr. Arafat replied: "I'm not talking about these things. But they have to understand that nobody can say farewell to the PLO without jeopardising his own interest. I am not threatening them... it is they who have threatened us."

He further answers he said: "We are not communists, especially those of us in Palestine. We are a progressive movement. Even our friends in the Soviet Union know we are not communists."

PLO denies report by Arafat

BEIRUT, Jan. 3 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation today dismissed as pure fabrication an Egyptian news report that Mr. Yasser Arafat had sent a message to PLO leaders in Cairo saying he had been the target of two assassination attempts last month.

The Cairo newspaper Al Gomhouria said today Mr. Arafat had claimed that dissenting Palestinians had tried to kill him.

A PLO spokesman, commenting on the report, said Mr. Arafat "has for a long time sent no messages to Palestinians residing in Cairo. Accordingly the report published by Al Gomhouria newspaper is pure fabrication."

The denial made no explicit reference to the alleged assassination attempts.

The report, by Mr. Kamal, PLO Chairman of the Political Department, who told Reuters in Cairo today: "I have no knowledge of such a message."

Carter hopes to sway Saudi Arabia to U.S. position on Mideast peace

Riyadh, Jan. 3 (Agencies). — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia welcomed U.S. President Jimmy Carter on his arrival here today from India thanking him for his "efforts for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." Mr. Carter, who is scheduled to spend only 15 hours in Saudi Arabia, declared that peace was "the primary purpose of this visit" and of his entire seven-day tour.

Speaking several words of Arabic, Mr. Carter stressed that the ties between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia were "unbreakable".

The Palestinian problem was high on the agenda of Mr. Carter's talks with King Khaled tonight.

Senior American officials predicted that King Khaled would press Mr. Carter to support the principle of self-determination for the people of the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip.

But they also said: "It would appear they may be in the process of moving to our approach on the Palestinian issue."

President Carter last week reiterated that he favoured a Palestinian homeland with links to Jordan, not an independent state in which the Palestine Liberation Organisation presumably remains.

His statement upset President Anwar Sadat, who said Mr. Carter was complicating the search for peace in the Middle East.

U.S. officials did not believe Saudi Arabia would reach a quick decision on any changes in its view on the Palestinian issue, nor did they expect any dramatic announcements to be made by Mr. Carter to Aswan, in Upper Egypt, tomorrow to confer with President Sadat.

Arab diplomats said King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd intended to tell Mr. Carter that the United States should exert heavy pressure on Israel for concessions justifying open Arab support for President Sadat's peace initiative.

American officials said three subjects, in addition to the Middle East, were on Mr. Carter's agenda for his talks with Saudi leaders.

One of the topics was the fighting between Ethiopia and Somalia, about which Mr. Carter expressed concern when he visited Iran on Saturday.

The second item was long-range oil pricing and supplies. Saudi Arabia, a major oil exporter to the United States, led a successful fight last month to freeze until next summer prices charged by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The third was the strength of the dollar and the massive dollar reserves accumulated by Saudi Arabia. American officials said they believed the Saudis had reserves equivalent to \$60 billion, of which 85 percent were American dollars.

The officials said Mr. Carter would have a number of questions to put to Mr. Sadat when they meet in Aswan tomorrow.

They reported that Mr. Carter wanted to know what positions President Sadat would put forward when full negotiations begin with Israel this month and what were his specific objections to Israel's proposal for self-rule for West Bank and Gaza Palestinians.

In his talks with Mr. Menachem Begin in Ismailia last month, Mr. Sadat said he could not accept a plan for a co-

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It was issued in place of a joint communique that had been planned.

Deep differences remained between India and the U.S. on questions of nuclear policy.

The U.S. has been pressing India to accept full international safeguards in return for the supply of nuclear fuel and in signing the non-proliferation treaty.

Prime Minister Morarji Desai however today reaffirmed that the nuclear powers had no right to advise others to sign the non-proliferation treaty unless they themselves agreed to a total ban on nuclear tests.

On the other hand, the first personal contact between the heads of the two biggest democracies in the world augured a return to the good Indian-American relations of the 1960's:

Officials in Aswan say:

Egypt does not insist on immediate creation of Palestinian state

ASWAN, Egypt, Jan. 3 (R). — On the eve of Middle East peace talks between President Carter and President Sadat in this winter resort, Egyptian officials hinted today at fresh moves to resolve the vital Palestinian issue.

Egyptian officials in Aswan said Mr. Sadat will tell Mr. Carter that Egypt is not asking for the immediate creation of a Palestinian state and would in any case prefer the territory to be linked with Jordan.

"Self-determination does not necessarily mean the immediate creation of an independent Palestinian state," one official said. "Egypt can accept the idea of a homeland as an initial step that will eventually lead to a state over a specific period of time."

However, the Foreign Affairs Commission of the People's Assembly today demanded Israel's total withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967 as a priority.

In a communiqué, the parliamentary commission said it rejected "any Israeli control whatsoever in these territories" and referred to United Nations resolutions on the issue.

The commission also urged refusal of "any proposal intended to maintain Israeli settlements in Arab territory".

The communiqué stressed "the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state."

"Nov. 19" group says it assassinated West Bank "collaborator"

BEIRUT, Jan. 3 (AFP). — A hitherto unknown Palestinian group called the Nov. 19 Organization claimed responsibility here today for assassinating a city official of Hebron on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

The victim, Esaie Al Ja'bari, 34, a relative of former Hebron Mayor Mohammad Ali Al Ja'bari was found dead from several bullet wounds yesterday in a wood near Hebron where he was hunting, Israeli newspapers reported.

He went to Egypt a few days ago with a delegation of West Bank dignitaries to show support for President Anwar Sadat's peace moves.

An anonymous phone caller told the Beirut bureau of Agence France-Presse that Mr. Al Ja'bari was a "traitor" on the "list of paid agents drawn up by the Palestinian resistance" and was therefore executed.

The Nov. 19 Organization apparently was named after the date on which President Sadat went to Israel, a black date for Palestinian historians.

A newspaper in Qatar reported several days ago that a list of 34 West Bank dignitaries had been marked for execution by Al Fatah the main group of Palestinian guerrillas.

The newspaper, Al Arab, said today that West Bank dignitaries have pledged since then to refrain from cooperating with Israel, and have pleaded with Fatah commander Yasser Arafat to stop their executions.

Hamdi Qadi, an official of the West Bank town of Ramallah, was murdered on Dec. 26. He had expressed support for Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's proposal of limited autonomy for the West Bank.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, also headed by Mr. Arafat, announced that it executed him.

Animal Health Department has big task on its hands

Ginette Devaney visited the office of Dr. Mahmud Gharaibeh who is the Assistant General Director of the Animal Health Department of the Ministry of Agriculture in Amman. His job covers all animal health and reproduction in the whole of Jordan, and he has numerous clinics and sub-clinics dotted about the country, under his control.

The Animal Health Department was founded in 1948 by King Abdullah who fully realised the necessity of modern methods of animal husbandry and medical health. The first veterinary officer was from Cairo and he was the sole representative of his Department.

He travelled the country on horseback attending as best he could do the many problems which arose, trying to educate his clients in modern methods and ideas. He also attended the King's horses.

Animal health and welfare is not a new thing in this part of the world, being mentioned as important in many old Arab books and manuscripts. What was new, and the people found difficult to adapt to, was the fact of animals having their own special doctors -- up until then, anyone with only a smattering of knowledge picked over the years by trial and error could attend to the needs of the various animals.

Similarly, in England, where until the founding of the Royal Veterinary College and the establishment of a veterinary profession, farriers or blacksmiths were the unofficial animal doctors.

From the time of its establishment the Animal Health Department has developed into a large unit with comprehensive cover of all aspects of veterinary sciences. The General Director, under whom Dr. Gharaibeh works, controls five sections covering quarantine, infectious diseases, animal reproduction, artificial insemination and the laboratories.

Each section has numerous veterinary surgeons attached to it, all fully qualified and highly trained. There are also stock inspectors attached to the infectious diseases department and qualified agricultural engineers working in the animal reproduction unit.

As well as veterinary surgeons, engineers and inspectors, there are also assistants and helpers in all departments.

In each of Jordan's provinces there is a veterinary clinic fully staffed and open at all times for advice and consultation.

Each province is divided into districts and these districts are also catered for, having various sub-clinics, also fully staffed. Experts from the central offices in Amman are always on call to go out to any of the clinics if needed. They also travel from area to area on supervisory visits.

At present there are five veterinary surgeons and one technician from Europe in the country, working on government sponsored exchange visas.

Four of the veterinary officers are from Germany, one in Irbid, one in Karak and two in Amman. The other veterinary surgeon and the technician are both British working at the Animal Health Laboratories here in Amman -- so international cooperation is a happy offshoot of the Department's activities.

The clinics in the provinces and districts are not only used by Jordanian nationals but also by the many Saudi Arabian and Syrian bedouin and travellers who frequently cross the national border.

All are welcomed by the Department's staff and receive advice on animal pest control, the best feeding and nutritional systems and of course, drugs and medicines where needed.

Most treatment sought is for the many flocks of sheep and goats owned by the clients and since their introduction from Holland in 1950, the hundreds of cattle now owned by farmers here.

In the south there are a great number of camels; some



Vets of the Animal Health Department visit rural farmers to inspect livestock.

on to be in Irbid.

Another of the Department's very important concerns is the control and inspection of dead meat and livestock intended for the abattoirs, that arrive in Jordan by air through Amman and by sea via Aqaba.

Meat and livestock come from such diverse countries as Italy, Norway, Holland, India, New Zealand and Australia.

Live animals have to undergo a two week quarantine period to check and test for disease before transportation to the abattoirs both in Amman and in the outlying districts.

Although the abattoirs are run by the Municipalities of the areas concerned who have their own veterinary officers, the Department is called in for any case of disease or infection.

From being a one man show in 1948 to being a vast, country-wide, modern Department in 1977, the Animal Health Department has entered into the 20th century by leaps and bounds like many other of Jordan's institutions. Modern techniques of education, help and advice together with the best drugs and medicines available, have given this country a veterinary service second to none in the Arab World. International cooperation and collaboration ensure that all that is best in the world of modern veterinary science is shared by Jordan's ever increasing and fast developing rural and agricultural population.

Forest, pulling in their second successive 40,000 crowd, were given the start they ne-

To be continued

In U.S. men are more likely to be attacked than women

WASHINGTON (AP) — Between 1960 and 1975 the number of crimes of violence in the U.S., a Commerce Department report, showed here. And a man has twice as much chance of being attacked than a woman.

The United States is eating more meat these days, but fewer dairy products.

Infant mortality is on the decline but it still exceeds that of Japan and Scandinavia, the report also showed.

Horse racing seems to be the favourite sport in the U.S., ahead of football and baseball.

Americans are spending 17 per cent less on food and clothing than 20 years ago, but five times more on medical treatment than in 1946.

The nation spends 27.8 per cent of income on homes compared with 21.7 per cent just after World War II.

Econoscope

730 days, but who is counting?

Two years ago this column started appearing on Tuesdays in the Jordan Times. When I was approached with the idea by the editor of the Jordan Times I never thought it would last more than six months.

Reviewing the materials published I realize how much I have changed. From an immature, fresh Ph.D. graduate I have grown into a man with blurred image.

Still influenced by the theories and nicely arranged syllogisms, I wrote mostly on methodological questions. Now I write on policies and I even dare suggest some when I have courage, or merely imply them when I lack it.

Two years ago I was in charge of the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank. I could afford then the luxury of being critical and cynical. Now I am a true-blooded government official who is afraid that his critiques might bounce back on his head.

Too many events took place during the last two years. Their colour arrangements and tones are so varied when viewed individually, but seem to be of the same species when viewed together at a quick glance.

Everything has changed, even I. When I first began writing, Jordan was still preoccupied with land speculation and monetary inflation. Now those events belong to the past

and labour shortages seem to override everything.

Should that imply anything? Yes it should, but I don't know what.

Could it be that economic events happen because of extraterrestrial powers which are beyond our control? Or could it be that our ad hoc responses in face of emergencies create other emergencies that impose other ad hoc responses? Is there a long-run, hideous trend that one cannot see or touch?

I do not know. But you see my genius lies in the fact that I pose questions for which I have no answers.

The editors of the Jordan Times realize this weakness in me and that is why they have not increased my remuneration. Probably if they do my insight will be flushed out and answers will become available.

It is the third year for Econoscope that we are breaking into. Unfortunately events are like birds. The birds do not recognize country boundaries and events do not acknowledge man-made time barriers.

Inflation does not celebrate a new year, nor does it honour the celebrators by its absence. So is the labour shortage. Yet barriers are an occasion for us to think and ponder.

I owe a great deal to the readers who communicate their responses. In addition, I would like to thank the Jordan Times staff for their encouragement and patience.

SPORTS NEWS BRIEFS

Everton, Nottingham Forest draw

LONDON, Jan. 3 (AP) —

A penalty-a-piece settled the New Year's match of the day with Trevor Ross salvaging a vital point for Everton four minutes from time at Nottingham Forest. A one-one draw was a fair result for the league's packers. But Liverpool, proving they can still win matches, although below their best, moved menacingly nearer a title challenge by beating Middlesbrough two-nil.

Relegation now looks a certainty for Frank McLintock's Leicester City, who went down again yesterday, this time at the hands of Manchester City. That defeat leaves them three points adrift of Newcastle United and six points away from safety at the bottom of the English First Division.

Forest, pulling in their second successive 40,000 crowd, were given the start they ne-

eded when John Robertson scored from the penalty spot after twenty five minutes and, although neither side showed their best form, the goal looked as if it would suffice, until Tony Burns handled in the goal.

Two pieces of individual skill took Liverpool to the same number of points as their Merseyside rivals Everton, a superb header by David Johnson, in the thirty-ninth minute, and a great solo goal by Eire's Steve Heighway, eleven minutes from time, gave them the points over Middlesbrough.

Manchester City, hitting back after a disastrous run in early December, became one of only three clubs to gain maximum points over the four holiday games with their one-nil win at Leicester. A seventeenth-minute penalty by Gary Owen

squandered a two-nil lead at Sheffield United to settle for a two-all draw in Division Two, enabling Southampton and Blackburn Rovers to keep in contention at the top.

Two other sides to gain maximum points during the bolliday programme were Oldham Athletic who beat Blackpool two-one and Fourth Division leaders Watford.

Glasgow Rangers beat Partick Thistle two-one to retain their two-point lead in the

Scottish Premier League but Aberdeen won at home before 25,000 their biggest crowd of the season, to remain close up in second position.

The Scottish league race is now between these two clubs for both Dundee United and Partick Thistle were beaten at Elland Road for twelve seasons. They coasted home with two goals from Micky Burns.

Birmingham sank Manchester United two-one at Old Trafford, for their first away win in three months, while Derek Hales scored six minutes from time to earn the "Hammers" a point at Norwich.

Tottenham squandered a two-nil lead at Sheffield United to settle for a two-all draw in Division Two, enabling Southampton and Blackburn Rovers to keep in contention at the top.

Close on 30,000 fans watched the Partick-Rangers match and all the goals came in the second half. Derek Johnstone put Rangers ahead. John Franco equalised for Partick in seventy minutes but Gordon Smith scored Rangers' winner five minutes later.

Substitute Ian Fleming scored the only goal of the game at Aberdeen against Dundee United.

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BUSINESS SUPPLIES

</div

USSR, Morocco to meet over \$2 billion phosphate deal

RABAT, Jan. 3 (AFP).— A large Soviet delegation is due here shortly to finalise details of a \$2 billion contract to work on phosphate deposits at Meknès near Marrakesh, informed sources said last night.

The 30-year contract, termed the Deal of the Century by King Hassan, involves starting production during the next eight to ten years, the Soviet

Union paying for geological surveys and the necessary mine, railroad and port infrastructure.

The Soviet Ambassador to Morocco Dmitri Gorunov had a meeting with Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucettet yesterday to discuss the deal, the sources said.

Under a parallel agreement expected to be concluded dur-

ing the delegation's visit, the Soviet Union will supply Morocco with oil, timber and chemicals in exchange for supplies of up to 10 million tons of phosphates a year from Meknès.

The Meknès deposits are estimated at roughly 8-10,000 million cubic metres.

Nevertheless, a number of technical and financial problems remain to be settled between the two governments. Soviet engineers have said in-depth geological probes are essential to determine the exact amount of investments and hence the long-term price of phosphate exports.

The Soviet Union and Morocco are also envisaging another agreement of fishing similar to that already operable between the Soviet Union and Mauritania.

Soviet sources in Rabat said that Morocco would this year be the Soviet Union's biggest trade partner in North Africa overtaking Algeria.

Japans foreign aid commitments rise

TOKYO, Jan. 3 (AFP).— Japanese foreign aid commitments in 1977 totalled 380,700 million yen (roughly \$1,586 billion), an increase of 62.6 per cent over those in 1976, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

The amount involves only government-to-government yen loans for which official documents were exchanged or signed during 1977.

Of the total aid, "commodity credits," aimed at financing the purchase of goods from Japan, amounted to 86,500 million yen (\$361 million), a 2.4-fold increase over 1976.

Chinese aid strengthens relationship with Malta

After Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff's recent trip to Peking his third in five years, China's influence over its new Mediterranean ally continues to grow.

VALLETTA, (WFS).— For two such widely disparate and distant countries, China (area 3.7 million square miles, population 800 million) and the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta (area 130 square miles, population 300,000) have enjoyed remarkably close and friendly relations over the last five years.

During his recent visit to Peking at the beginning of November, where he concluded an economic and technical cooperation agreement, Dom Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister, spoke appreciatively of China's aid to the island and her support for Malta's attempts to reduce superpower tension in the Mediterranean.

Malta and China established diplomatic relations in January 1972, and in the following April Dom Mintoff made his first official visit to Peking, where he negotiated an interest-free loan from China of nearly £17 million. Malta is due to begin paying back the loan in 1984.

The money has been used to finance development projects provided by China, including a large dry dock, glassworks and textile and chocolate factories.

The Chinese have also signed a long-term contract with Sea Malta, the island's shipping company to handle the trans-shipment of Chinese exports to southern Mediterranean countries.

The relations of Mr. Mintoff's Labour government with other socialist states have not, however, followed the easy flow of the entente with China. The Maltese premier arrived in Peking after a visit to Tripoli, the Libyan capital,

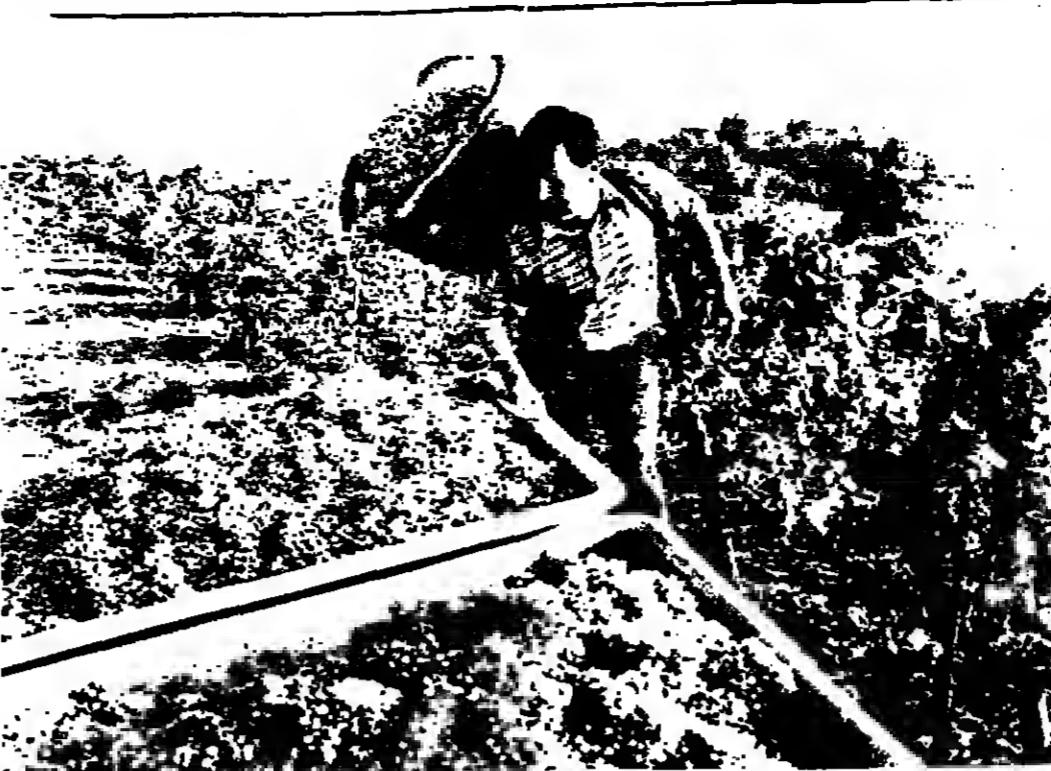
where he had a day's talks with the Libyan leader, Col. Qadhafi. Like the Chinese, the Libyans have close relations with Malta's Labour government, but of a much more complex nature.

The Libyan government appears eager to enlist Malta, only some 200 miles off the Libyan coast, into membership of its own peculiarly messianic anti-Western camp. During a visit to Malta in May last year, Col. Qadhafi bitterly attacked Malta's traditional links with the West, particularly Britain (the former colonial power in Malta), which has an agreement for base facilities in Malta until 1979.

Libya's readiness to pronounce on Malta's relations with other countries has caused some unease and embarrassment in Maltese political circles. When a Libyan delegation arrived for the Conference of Mediterranean Socialist and Progressive Parties in June it took the Maltese government somewhat unawares by producing a ready-made final resolution with a strongly anti-Western tone.

The Maltese government was also concerned at the unpredictable choice of many of the delegates to the conference, many of them apparently sponsored and paid for by Libya.

Some of them came from such distant non-Mediterranean countries as Thailand and the Philippines, and included members of the Patriotic Liberation Front, which claims to represent 4 million oppressed Muslims in Thailand, and representatives of the Muslim rebels in Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, both of



AN ABOVE-AVERAGE YEAR FOR RHINE WINE — Grape-picking can be fun, especially if the sun is still shining in late autumn, which is not always the case in Germany. This season's vintage, now safely in the vats, looks likely to prove both plentiful and good. While it is maturing ministry officials in Mainz anticipate the inauguration of a special device to conduct automatically and inexpensively the full range of chemical analyses to which quality wines are subjected. The device has been commissioned by the Ministry of Vinciculture of the Rhineland-Palatinate, which accounts for three out of four German vineyards. It should not be long before all the authorities responsible for granting a wine official approval are equipped with the new labour-saving device. (DAD photo)



\$ closes at new low in Germany

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Jan. 3 (R). — The U.S. dollar was fixed at a record low of 2.0845 marks on the West German Currency Market today against 2.1025 yesterday.

The West German Central

Bank (Bundesbank) bought \$6.7 million at the fixing, dealers said.

The dollar's fix was almost two pence below its previous record low of reached last Thursday.

Trading picked up this morn-

ning on the re-opening of several European centres after the New Year break. Dealers said general pressure, focussed especially on demand for sterling and the Swiss franc, forced the dollar down.

Gold jumped \$2.75 to \$167.875.

News Focus

Where does the £ go next?

Sterling has been rising fast against the dollar, masking its movements against other currencies. The pound should continue to rise against other major currencies.

By Colin Millham
The Financial Times Money Markets Correspondent

LONDON -- Despite all the fuss when it was announced that sterling was to be floated on the foreign exchange market at the end of October the exercise has not turned out quite as expected.

When the pound was set free it was naturally assumed that it would float upwards. The arguments presented at the time suggested that this would be good for inflation -- by helping to reduce the price of imports -- but would make life that much harder for exporters, and might have a damaging effect on Britain's competitiveness in overseas markets.

There was even talk to parliament of the government being manoeuvred into a political trap, but by and large most commentators seemed to think that it was the right decision.

"Hot" money had been pouring into London and the easiest way to reduce the pressure was to allow the pound to rise, since expectation of sterling going up was a major reason for the arrival of the funds in the first place. This is what the game is all about as far as the international speculators are concerned.

A quick glance at the front page of the Financial Times

will show that the pound has indeed advanced. It is now worth about \$1.85 compared with \$1.77 at the end of October, and its trade-weighted index stands at 63.4, against 62.5 on Oct. 28. Very roughly this means that sterling is worth just over 60 per cent of its value at December 1971.

Just looking at the value against the dollar is very misleading however, since the dollar itself has fallen like a stone against many other currencies over the last two months or so. The trade-weighted index is a better guide, but even this fails to show sterling's movement against many of our competitors.

A similar problem can arise when looking at the dollar. Trade between the U.S. and Canada is on such a big scale that the Canadian dollar's movements have a very large influence on any calculation.

The Canadian dollar itself has been very volatile recently, and a situation is often created where the U.S. dollar falls sharply against most major currencies, but because its Canadian counterpart is even weaker the U.S. dollar appears to be rising on a trade-weighted basis.

None of this does much to foster the idea of European monetary union, since the present members of the joint float would probably shudder at the thought of sterling, the French franc, and the Italian lira renewing their membership of the "snake" even though they have all been part of the system in the past.

Where does all this leave sterling? There was a great deal of ballyhoo when the decision was made to float the pound, but it all seems to have had

Carter stresses support of Indo-U.S. Joint Commission

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3 (AFP). — The Indo-U.S. Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation held a two-hour meeting here this morning to discuss ways of strengthening relations between the two countries in the fields of economy, culture and science and technology.

The meeting was co-chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpeyi.

Mr. Vance, who is visiting New Delhi with President Jimmy Carter, stressed his government's continued support of the Joint Commission. He said his government attached great value to the linkages and cooperative relations that are within the capacity of the commission to foster.

During the meeting the commission endorsed the reports of the three sub-commissions

-- Economic and Commercial, Education and Culture and Science and Technology -- all of which had met previously in 1976 and 1977.

Earlier in the morning, Mr. Vance and Mr. Vajpeyi signed a memorandum of understanding which would result in India receiving remote sensing data direct from the satellite Lansat.

The Lansat would provide information which would be useful in estimating crops and yields, range land management, forest and water resources, land use planning, weather data and planning of large river basins and deserts such as the Great Indian Desert.

Israeli prices rose 41% in '77

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (AP). — Prices in Israel rose by 41 per cent last year while the state national product increased by only one per cent according to preliminary figures released here yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Private consumption increased by between one and two per cent while public consumption, including defence spending, fell by eight per cent.

The bureau said Israel's foreign trade balance deficit had consequently dropped by \$3.2 billion at the end of 1976 to \$2.7 billion at the end of 1977.

Danish foreign minister goes to Iran to discuss ban on Danish imports

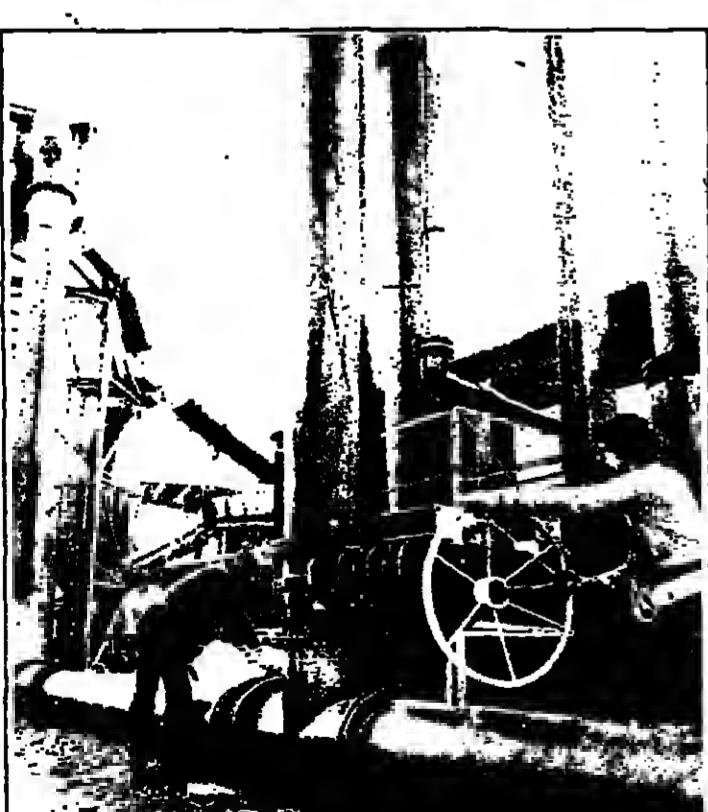
COPENHAGEN, Jan. 3 (AP). — Danish Foreign Minister Knud Borg Andersen today left for Tehran to discuss the Iranian Chamber of Commerce ban on Danish imports.

The Chamber of Commerce took this step as a protest against "too lenient" treatment handed out to 16 Iranian students who recently occupied

the Iranian Embassy here and smashed portraits of the Shah.

The students were given three week prison sentences but the decision was later overturned. The government then expelled the students to West Germany, France, Sweden and Austria, where they came from.

A similar ban has been imposed on imports from Italy.



THE WATER CONVEYOR — Pipelined water as a means of conveying freight is the subject of what is probably a unique research installation at Hanover University of Technology, Germany. The aim is to investigate the possibility of piping general cargo, manganese nodules, liquid concrete and syncretics. Trials are to be conducted over a three-year period to determine the specific engine and pump capacity and the commodities that can economically be transported in this way. At present a 600-hp. diesel engine is pumping fifty cubic metres of water round a 240-metre pipeline circuit, conveying fifteen cubic metres of sand at a speed of five metres per second. (DAD photo)

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian fils	
Buying/Selling	315.00/317.00	
U.S. dollar	604.00/608.00	
W. German mark	150.90/151.80	
French franc	67.60/68.10	
Swiss franc	157.20/158.10	
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.20/36.40	
Japanese yen (for every 100)	131.90/132.70	
Dutch guilder (for every 100)	133.90/139.70	
Belgian franc (for every 100)	96.10/96.70	
Swedish crown	67.40/67.80	

of the Financial Times

masked the movements of sterling. Since the pound was allowed to float it has lost ground against the German mark, the Swiss franc, and the Japanese yen. On the other hand it is slightly firmer against the weaker European currencies, such as the Italian lira, French franc and Swedish kroner.

Several other currencies have been pulled up by the mark, because along with the German unit they are members of the European joint float agreement, commonly known as the "snake". These countries are obliged to maintain their currencies within set limits against each other, and this has meant that the pound has lost ground against the Dutch guilder, Belgian franc, and Norwegian kroner. It is also slightly weaker against the Danish kroner.

As an example, before sterling was allowed to "rise" one pound would have bought 3.98 Swiss francs, but on Dec. 15 the seller would have acquired only 3.82. At the same time the pound has fallen from 4.02 marks to 3.95, and from 4.21 Dutch guilders to 4.27.

None of this does much to foster the idea of European monetary union, since the present members of the joint float would probably shudder at the thought of sterling, the French franc, and the Italian lira renewing their membership of the "snake" even though they have all been part of the system in the past.

Where does all this leave sterling? There was a great deal of ballyhoo when the decision was made to float the pound, but it all seems to have had

London short-term interest rates have risen by about two per cent, but may fall again in the fairly near future, even though the Bank of England has prevented this from happening at present. The uncertainty over interest rate movements tends to create sharp movements of sterling in the forward market, with rates swinging backwards and forwards between premiums and discounts against the dollar.

The U.S. currency looks like falling even further, following disappointment at the lack of any concrete measures to support it at the central bankers' meeting in Basle. Sterling should obviously rise against the dollar, but may well continue to lose ground against other major currencies.

Perhaps it has all worked out rather well for the UK authorities. The decision to float the pound took much of the upward pressure off sterling for a time at least, but exporters can still take heart. The major problem is likely to remain producing enough goods rather than selling them.

-- Financial Times
News-Features

To our readers

Editor's note: The Jordan Times is suspending publication of what are supposed to be daily financial bulletins on the New York and London stock markets, the London gold market and the London International exchange rates. Due to erratic reception of this information, primarily because of technical interference, we have not been able to provide this information to our readers on a daily basis, and we have decided to suspend publication until we find ourselves able to publish this financial news on a more reliable regular basis.

checklist

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, 1978

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early in the day you are able to uncover information you need with ease, but in order to continue, it is necessary that you don't allow yourself to be distracted by outside activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You get tidbits of information you did not expect but which can be most helpful to you now. Take on chances with your health.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study your relationships with associates and be alert to remarks made by those who are usually reticent in doing so. Be logical.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can work along progressive lines now and advance in your line of endeavor. Be thoughtful of mate and get good results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have fine creative ideas now and should put them in operation without delay. Be sure you spend your money wisely.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study the situation at home well and try to improve it in every way you can. Study every detail of a project you are working on.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can now find the right information you need to put your affairs in better working order. Don't neglect important correspondence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your monetary position and plan to have greater abundance in the days ahead. Strive for increased happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can easily gain personal aims at this which you have long awaited. You may get a call from a friend that can be most helpful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't make comments about something you don't fully comprehend. Spend more time with the one you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to differentiate between your closest friends and mere acquaintances and put each in their rightful category.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some responsibility in the business world should be handled quickly and well. Find the right appliances to make your work easier.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A new project you have in mind should be studied well and all facts and figures understood before going ahead with it.

RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO

Jordan's largest and most renowned Chinese restaurant offers you a gourmet's trip to the Far East via superior oriental cuisine and authentic northern Chinese and Cantonese dishes.

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Jabal Amman
2nd Circle
Top Restaurant

GRAFFITI

THE WAY
SOME PEOPLE
LOOK FOR FAULTS
YOU'D THINK
THERE WAS
A REWARD

AL'S

ENTERTAINMENT

<p

Armenian group blasts two Turkish concerns in London, Brussels

BRUSSELS, Jan. 3 (Agencies). — A "New Armenian Resistance" (NAR) group was responsible for bomb attempts against Turkish premises in London and Brussels early today, it was announced here today.

An anonymous telephone call to the Brussels bureau of Agence France Presse (AFP) said the bombs were to "show the Turkish fascist state and

Western imperialism that the Armenian people have an the inexpressible right to exist."

"The NAR calls on all Armenians to take up arms... for a re-unified, independent and socialist Armenia," the communiqué stated.

The embassy itself is some metres away but was not affected.

The explosion caused no structural damage to the building, and embassy staff would be able to resume work in the damaged section before long, according to Turkish Embassy officials here.

The London bomb exploded outside the Turkish Bank Ltd. early today shattering windows but causing little other damage. No one was hurt.

It was the second bomb blast in London in three days. Police said the device had been left in the doorway of the Turkish bank in Haringay, north London. Troops put out a small fire.

Two Syrian Embassy staff were killed by a car bomb in central London on Saturday night.

Rhodesian troops have mounted follow-up operations in the mountainous areas but the attack has not yet been officially confirmed by Combined Operations Headquarters.

An official spokesman said a communiqué might be issued later.

Black Rhodesian guerrillas led by Robert Mugabe, co-leader with Josiah Nkomo of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, are known to be based in Mozambique along the border.

The attack is the first in the New Year on a tourist resort and the first ever of its kind on a hotel near the border with Mozambique.

The spokesman was unable to say how long the attack lasted or whether it was launched from inside Rhodesia or from across the border.

"If you have even been under fire you will know that it is not easy to estimate these things," he said.

Several missiles missed the hotel and thudded into the

surrounding rocks, the spokesman said.

"There was also a lot of small arms fire which hit the building," he said.

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Guerrillas shell major Rhodesian tourist hotel

SALISBURY, Jan. 3 (AFP). — African nationalist guerrillas fired on the Leopard Rock Hotel on Rhodesia's eastern border 40 kms from Umtali early today, damaging the roof with a heavy weapon, a hotel spokesman said.

About seven rockets or mortar shells hit the building, a popular tourist resort, at 3:30 a.m.

"The roof is badly damaged but no one was injured," the spokesman said.

Only five rooms were occupied at the time, although the hotel was fully booked during the Christmas and New Year periods.

Leopard Rock is one of Rhodesia's most picturesque hotels, lying in the Vumba Mountains along the Mozambique border.

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